considered by the Government for protecting those industries, and when the scheme will be announced by the Finance Minister in consultation with the Steel Ministry.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Sir, this is a very important issue raised by the hon. Member. I am really happy about it. My Ministry has already taken up the matter with the Finance Ministry, and we will pursue it.

SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOUTRA: Sir, I am not very satisfied with the answer given by the hon. Minister because this is a very vital industry, and I look at it as one of the industries which could be considered as a thrust industry for India because we have all the raw materials here. Despite the fact that we are having more employment and that our productivity levels are low, still our labour cost, compared with that in other countries, is less than half. it is about 13 per cent in India. All the raw materials are available in India, and they are much cheaper.

The only area where we have a problem is power, which, I think, can be taken care of by the industries themselves putting up generating units. A major problem, as I see it not only for the private sector but also for large Government units, is the technological problem, the gap that we have in tecnology. I think, the Ministry must address itself to this problem because unless we bridge this gap or narrow this gap, we cannot become a world player in this field.

We have had a lot of representations before the Standing Committee on Industry from the steel industry regarding the problems that have cropped up due to the reduction in duty. Yet the hon. Minister says that the only imports that have taken place are 250.000 tonnes, which means that this reduction in duty is not a problem.

The major problem is that we have this gap in technology, and Indian producers are charging much higher prices than they should be charging, compared to the prices the world over. I think the Ministry should play a role in guiding the industry as far as this technology gap is concerned. It should assist industries, both small and large scale, and it should try and narrow down the gap so that we can become world players in this field.

I want the hon. Minister to respond to this because the industry he heads or the Ministry he heads has a very important and key role to play for India in the coming years.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Sir, I do agree with the hon. Member that the labour cost in our country is very cheap compared to that in any developed country. This is not a problem. The problem is that the iron and steel industry needs coking coal. Our production of coking coal is not sufficient to meet the requirement. We have to import coking coal all the time.

I do agree with the hon. Member that shortage of power is the basic problem in our country. So, my Ministry has suggested that the steel industry should go in for captive power projects.

It is true and I remember that in response to a question put by an hon. Member, I told the the House earlier that the reduction of the customs duty had certainly affected the steel industry in our country.

Secondly, Sir, it is very important to note that market always depends upon supply and demand. The price of steel is not determined by the steel industry; it is determined by the market. So, the Government has taken measures

I am thankful to the hon. Member. The Government will look into the suggestion made by him.

Special Rehabilitation Facilities for Orthopaedically Handicapped Children

*503. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA SWAMY: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up special rehabilitation facilities for orthopaedically handicapped children;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it it a fact that a large number of physically handicapped children are not getting adequate facilities; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) There is no specific proposal before the Ministry of Welfare at this time for setting up special rehabilitation facilities specifically for orthopaedically handicapped children.

The number of physically handicapped persons has been estimated in a sample survey of 1991 to be 16.15 million. It can be assumed that a large number of physically handicapped children, which term includes children with locomotor, visual, and speech an hearing disabilities, are in need of adequate facilities for rehabilitation.

Although there is no specific proposal to set up rehabilitation facilities specifically for orthopaedically handicapped children, the following existing schemes of the Government administered through Non-Governmental Organisations are aimed at rehabilitation of handicapped persons including orthopaedically handicapped children:—

(1) Assistance to Organisations for the Disabled;

(2) Assistance to Organisations for Establishment & Development of Special Schools;

(3) Assistance to the Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitment of Aids and Appliances;

(4) Integrated Education for Disabled Children.

The National Institute for the Orthopaedically handicapped, Calcutta, the National Institute for Rehabilitation, Training and Research, Cuttack, and the Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi are apex institutions of excellence working for the orthopaedically handicapped persons including children.

It is proposed to strengthen and expand the schemes for rehabilitation of disabled persons including children. As against a budgetary allocation of Rs. 65.11 crores (Rs. 45.90 crores under Plan + Rs. 19.21 crores under Non-Plan) for the year 1996-97 an amount of Rs. 127.16 crores (Rs. 107.04 crores under Plan + Rs. 20.12 crores under Non-Plan) has been earmarked for the year 1997-98.

Actions in pursuance of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 are expected to give a boost to rehabilitation measures for the disabled children also.

SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, according to the hon. Minister's written reply, in our country there are 16.15 million physically handicapped people. Among them are mostly children afflicted with polio and handicapped due to accidents and other physical deformities. This young generation will suffer greatly if sufficient measures are not taken.

Sir, the former Prime Minister had announced some welfare measures for disabled on the occasion of Independence Day on the 15th of August, 1996. There is a laxity in the speedy implementation and enforcement of the measures necessary for providing rehabilitation facilities for orthopaedically handicapped children as provided in the relevant Act. Sir, I would like to know whether integrated schools have been set up in every district as promised, to provide training and basic rehabilitation services to the handicapped children.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Sir, about 300 special schools are funded by the Welfare Ministry. There are also integrated schools where the disabled children take education along with other able-bodied children. We are funding about 300 schools and most of them are run by NGOs. There is also a provision for integrated schools, if they go in for some vocational training or some other special training. The Government of India through the Welfare Ministry also funds such schemes if they are taken as special courses.

SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Party (a) of my supplementary question is: The Government had promised to set up a National Trust for the Welfare of the mentally retarded

and persons affected by cerebral palsy and also to set up a National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation. I would like to know the progress in this regard.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Sir, the National Handicapped Welfare Finance and Development Corporation has been registered on 24th January, 1997. Everything is complete. The Corporation is being located at Faridabad. I hope the Corporation will start working within two months from now.

Regarding the National Trust for the Welfare of persons with mental retardation, a Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha in December, 1995. It could not be taken up and it lapsed. I think the Cabinet will very soon give its approval and it will be reintroduced.

SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Part (b) of my second supplementary is about the programme named *Viklang Bandhu*. It is aimed at providing rehabilitation facilities in rural areas. I would like to know its details and I would also like to know whether its services will be made available in Andhra Pradesh also.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: *Viklang Bandhu* project is under consideration. It will be available throughout the country, including Andhra Pradesh.

सैयद सिब्ते रज़ी: सभापति महोदय, मंत्री जी ने अपने जवाब में कहा है कि हमने बच्चों के लिए अलग से पूनर्वास की योजनाएं नहीं रखी हैं। मैं पूछना चाहता हूं कि क्या बच्चों को प्रॉयोरिटी देते हुए आप उनके पुनर्वास के लिए अलग से कुछ कार्यक्रम बनाएंगे, अलग से बच्चों के लिए कार्यक्रम नहीं है, यह आपने अपने उत्तर में कहा है। तो क्या बच्चों को प्रॉयोरिटी देते हुए आप उनके लिए अलग से कार्यक्रम बनाएंगे

†[شری سید سبط رضی: سبھاپتی مہودے۔
منتری جی نے اپنے جواب میں کہا ہے کہ ہم نے
بچوں کیلئے الگ سے "پنر واس کی یوجنائیں"
نہیں رکھی ہیں۔ میں پوچھنا چاہتا ہوں
کہ کیا بچوں کو پرا تھمکتا دیتے ہوئے آپ اُنکے
پنر واس کیلئے الگ سے کچھ پروگرام بنائینگے۔
الگ سے بچوں کیلئے پروگرام نہیں ہیں۔
یہ آپنے اپنے جواب میں کہا ہے تو کیا

†Transliteration in Arabic Script.

بچوں کو پرا تھمکتا دیتے ہوئے آپ اُنکے
لئے الگ سے پروگرام بنائینگے۔]

श्री बलवंत सिंह रामूवालिया: मुझ से बच्चों के लिए स्पैशल रिहैबिलिटेशन फैसिलिटीज़ के बारे में सवाल पूछा गया था। अभी तक तो नहीं है, क्योंकि अभी तक सेप्रेट जो जानकारी है...(**व्यवधान**)

सैयद सिब्ते रज़ी: मैं आश्वासन चाहता हूं कि अलग से कोई प्रोग्राम बनाएंगे विकलांग बच्चों के लिए?

श्री बलवंत सिंह रामूवालिया: हां, ऐसा विचार हो रहा है। मैं बहुत जल्दी एक्सपर्ट्स की मीटिंग बुला रहा हूं ताकि बच्चों की हम शुरू से क्या मदद कर सकते हैं सेप्रेटली उस पर गौर किया जाए।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Amount of royalty on coal received by Madhya Pradesh

*504. SHRI LAKKHIRAM AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) how much royalty has been received by the Madhya Pradesh Government from the coal-fields in Madhya Pradesh during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) whether cess on coal from the coal-fields in Madhya Pradesh is received by the Central Government; and

(c) if so, how much cess has been received during the last three years by the Central Government from the coal-fields in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The amounts of royalty received by the Government of Madhya Pradesh from the coalfields in Madhya Pradesh during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 are given below:—

(Rs. in crores)

1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (upto 31st January '97)
438.91	666.77	527.48

(b) There is no Central legislation empowering the Central Government to levy Cess on coal. Therefore, the question of Central Government receiving cess on coal from the coalfields in Madhya Pradesh does not arise.